

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-86 (canceled)

87. (new) An epidermis equivalent comprising at least keratinocytes, said epidermis equivalent being obtained by seeding of at least keratinocytes onto a dermis equivalent comprising at least glycated collagen and fibroblasts, wherein said dermis equivalent has a level of glycation from 2-30 times that of a control dermis comprising collagen not subjected to a glycation process and fibroblasts.

88. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 87, wherein said epidermis equivalent has a modified distribution of expression of $\beta 1$ integrin.

89. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 88, wherein the modified distribution of expression is expression of $\beta 1$ integrin in the cells of at least the first three suprabasal layers.

90. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 87, wherein the keratinocytes comprise keratinocytes of human origin.

91. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 87, further comprising melanocytes and/or Langerhans cells and/or precursors of Langerhans cells.

92. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 87, wherein said dermis equivalent has a level of glycation from 8 to 18 compared to a control dermis.

93. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 87, wherein the glycated collagen comprises collagen of animal or human origin.

94. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 87, wherein the glycated collagen comprises collagen of bovine origin.

95. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 87, wherein the glycated collagen comprises type I collagen.

96. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 87, wherein the fibroblasts comprise fibroblasts of human origin.

97. (new) An epidermis equivalent comprising at least keratinocytes, said epidermis equivalent having a modified distribution of expression of $\beta 1$ integrin, said epidermis equivalent being obtained by seeding of at least keratinocytes onto an aged dermis equivalent comprising at least glycated collagen and fibroblasts.

98. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 97, wherein the modified distribution of expression is expression of $\beta 1$ integrin in the cells of at least the first three suprabasal layers.

99. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 97, wherein the keratinocytes comprise keratinocytes of human origin.

100. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 97, further comprising melanocytes and/or Langerhans cells and/or precursors of Langerhans cells.

101. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 97, wherein the aged dermis equivalent has a level of glycation from 2-30 times that of a control dermis comprising collagen not subjected to the glycation process and fibroblasts.

102. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 101, wherein said aged dermis equivalent has a level of glycation from 8 to 18 compared to a control dermis.

103. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 97, wherein the glycated collagen comprises collagen of animal or human origin.

104. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 97, wherein the glycated collagen comprises collagen of bovine origin.

105. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 97, wherein the glycated collagen comprises type I collagen.

106. (new) The epidermis equivalent of Claim 97, wherein the fibroblasts comprise fibroblasts of human origin.

107. (new) A method for obtaining an epidermis equivalent comprising seeding keratinocytes onto an aged dermis equivalent, wherein the aged dermis equivalent comprises at least glycated collagen and fibroblasts and wherein the aged dermis equivalent has a level of glycation from 2-30 times that of a control dermis comprising collagen not subjected to the glycation process and fibroblasts.

108. (new) The method of Claim 107, comprising at least keratinocytes, said epidermis equivalent having a modified distribution of expression of $\beta 1$ integrin.

109. (new) The method of Claim 108, wherein the modified distribution of expression is expression of $\beta 1$ integrin in the cells of at least the first three suprabasal layers.

110. (new) The method of Claim 107, wherein the keratinocytes comprise keratinocytes of human origin.

111. (new) The method of Claim 107, further comprising melanocytes and/or Langerhans cells and/or precursors of Langerhans cells.

112. (new) The method of Claim 107, wherein said aged dermis equivalent has a level of glycation from 8 to 18 compared to a control dermis.

113. (new) The method of Claim 107, wherein the glycated collagen comprises collagen of animal or human origin.

114. (new) The method of Claim 107, wherein the glycated collagen comprises collagen of bovine origin.

115. (new) The method of Claim 107, wherein the glycated collagen comprises type I collagen.

116. (new) The method of Claim 107, wherein the fibroblasts comprise fibroblasts of human origin.

117. (new) A method for obtaining an epidermis equivalent with a modified distribution of $\beta 1$ integrin expression comprising
constructing an epidermis equivalent by seeding at least keratinocytes on an aged dermis equivalent comprising at least collagen and fibroblasts to induce a modified distribution of $\beta 1$ integrin expression.

118. (new) The method of Claim 117, wherein the modified distribution of expression is expression of $\beta 1$ integrin in the cells of at least the first three suprabasal layers.

119. (new) The method of Claim 117, wherein the keratinocytes comprise keratinocytes of human origin.

120. (new) The method of Claim 117, further comprising melanocytes and/or Langerhans cells and/or precursors of Langerhans cells.

121. (new) The method of Claim 117, wherein the aged dermis equivalent has a level of glycation from 2-30 times that of a control dermis comprising collagen not subjected to the glycation process and fibroblasts.

122. (new) The method of Claim 121, wherein said aged dermis equivalent has a level of glycation from 8 to 18 compared to a control dermis.

123. (new) The method of Claim 117, wherein the glycated collagen comprises collagen of animal or human origin.

124. (new) The method of Claim 117, wherein the glycated collagen comprises collagen of bovine origin.

125. (new) The method of Claim 117, wherein the glycated collagen comprises type I collagen.

126. (new) The method of Claim 117, wherein the fibroblasts comprise fibroblasts of human origin.